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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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Hajime Maekawa

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EXAMINER

MCADAMS, BRAD

ART UNIT

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PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/528,978	Applicant(s) MAEKAWA ET AL.	
	Examiner ROBERT B. MCADAMS	Art Unit 2456	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 13 August 2009.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1 and 35-53 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1 and 35-53 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>08/13/2009</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

1. This Office Action is in response to the request for continued examination filed on August 13, 2009.
2. Claims 1 and 35-53 are pending.

Response to Amendment

3. Applicant's arguments with respect to Claims 1 and 35-53 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

4. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.
5. **Claims 39 and 53** are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.
6. Regarding **Claims 39 and 53**, the phrase "similar" renders the claims indefinite because the claims include elements not actually disclosed (those encompassed by "similar"), thereby rendering the scope of the claims unascertainable. See MPEP § 2173.05(b). For the purposes of examination, the Examiner will interrupt "similar" to be "same".

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

7. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

8. **Claims 1 and 35-53** are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Gabber* (U.S. Patent No. 5,961,593) in view of *Wootton* (U.S. Patent No. 6,128,298).

As to **Claims 1, 35 and 39-40**, *Gabber* discloses an information processing system (**Figure 5**) comprising: electronic equipment (**User Site 105a, Figure 5**) and a server device (**Central Proxy 110a, Figure 5**),

the electronic equipment comprising:

an electronic equipment identifier storing section for storing an electronic equipment identifier that is information unique to the electronic equipment (**User Site identification data is data used to uniquely identify client 105a. Column 13, Lines 27-30 and Column 6, Lines 46-51**);

an index information holding section holding index information that is information for obtaining an electronic equipment identifier (**Index information, Substitute Identifier, is created and held in the first routine within User Site 105a. Column 13, Lines 27-30**);

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a send information sending section for obtaining index information from the index information holding section and sending send information containing the index information to the server device **(The second routine transmits the substitute identifier to Central Proxy System 110a. Column 13, Lines 30-40).**

the server device comprising:

an electronic equipment identifier index correspondence management section for storing the electronic equipment identifier corresponded to the index information **(A data structure is used to map the index information, substitute identifier, to the electronic equipment identifier. Column 7, Lines 34-38);**

a send information receiving section for receiving the send information from the electronic equipment **(The second routine sends the send information from the electronic equipment to Central Proxy 110a. Column 13, Lines 30-33);** and

an information accessing section for obtaining the electronic equipment identifier based on the index information contained in the send information received by the send information receiving section **(The electronic equipment identifier is obtained by using the data structure to map the index information to said electronic equipment identifier. Column 7, Lines 34-38).**

wherein the electronic equipment identifier obtained by the information accessing section is similar to an electronic equipment identifier stored at the electronic equipment **(The User Identifiers and Substitute User Identifiers are the same in both the User Site and the Central Proxy. Column 13, Lines 27-40)**

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Although *Gabber* inherently discloses storing electronic equipment related information (As data is passed back from the Server Site to the User, the Central Proxy has to know where the User is located to send said data back to the User), *Wotton*, in the same field of endeavor, expressly discloses a server device comprising an electronic equipment related information storage section storing one or more pieces of electronic equipment related information (**IP Filter 12 stores a translation table which includes electronic equipment related information, private IP and port address. Column 5, Lines 37-55).**

At the time of invention, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to have combined the Central Proxy as taught by *Gabber* with an electronic equipment related information storage section as taught by *Wotton*. The motivation would have been to store specific address information related to routing data to the user.

As to **Claims 36-38**, *Gabber* further discloses a server device (**Central Proxy 110a, Figure 5**) comprising :

an electronic equipment identifier index correspondence management section for storing the electronic equipment identifier corresponded to index information (**A data structure is used to map the index information, substitute identifier, to the electronic equipment identifier. Column 7, Lines 34-38**)

a send information receiving section for receiving the send information from the electronic equipment, the send information including a packet having a destination

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address of the server device and the index information **(The second routine transmits the substitute identifier to Central Proxy System 110a. Column 13, Lines 30-40);** and

an information accessing section for obtaining the electronic equipment identifier based on the index information contained in the send information received by the send information receiving section **(The electronic equipment identifier is obtained by using the data structure to map the index information to said electronic equipment identifier. Column 7, Lines 34-38).**

Although *Gabber* inherently discloses storing electronic equipment related information (As data is passed back from the Server Site to the User, the Central Proxy has to know where the User is located to send said data back to the User), *Wotton*, in the same field of endeavor, expressly discloses a server device comprising an electronic equipment related information storage section storing one or more pieces of electronic equipment related information **(IP Filter 12 stores a translation table which includes electronic equipment related information, private IP and port address. Column 5, Lines 37-55).**

At the time of invention, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to have combined the Central Proxy as taught by *Gabber* with an electronic equipment related information storage section as taught by *Wotton*. The motivation would have been to store specific address information related to routing data to the user.

As to **Claims 41 and 42**, *Wootton-Gabber* further discloses wherein the electronic equipment related information includes a port number and Internet protocol address for accessing the electronic equipment (***Wootton*; Private IP address and Private Port. Column 5, Lines 41-50**).

As to **Claim 43**, *Wootton-Gabber* further discloses wherein the electronic equipment identifier is an Internet protocol address associated with the electronic equipment (***Wootton*; Private IP address. Column 5, Lines 41-50**).

As to **Claim 44**, *Wootton-Gabber* further discloses wherein the electronic equipment identifier is a MAC address associated with the electronic equipment (***Wootton*; Ethernet Address. Column 5, Lines 41-50**).

As to **Claims 45, 46 and 48-49**, *Gabber-Wootton* further discloses wherein the send information does not include the electronic equipment identifier (***Only the Substitute Identifier is transmitted to the Central Proxy to keep the user identification information secret and secure. Column 13, Lines 27-40***).

As to **Claim 47**, *Wootton-Gabber* further discloses wherein the electronic equipment identifier is one of an Internet protocol address associated with the electronic equipment (***Wootton*; Private IP address, pIP. Column 5, Lines 37-63**).

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As to **Claims 50-52**, *Wootton-Gabber* further discloses wherein electronic equipment related information includes an Internet protocol address of a router (**IP Filter 12**) coupled to the electronic equipment (***Wootton*; Column 5, Lines 37-67 and Column 6, Lines 1-18**).

As to **Claim 53**, *Gabber-Wootton* further discloses wherein the electronic equipment identifier obtained by the information accessing section is similar to an electronic equipment identifier stored at the electronic equipment (**The User Identifiers and Substitute User Identifiers are the same in both the User Site and the Central Proxy. Column 13, Lines 27-40**).

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to ROBERT B. MCADAMS whose telephone number is (571)270-3309. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Thursday 6:30am-5pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Bunjob Jaroenchonwanit can be reached on 571-272-3913. The fax phone

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number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/R. B. M./
Examiner, Art Unit 2456

/Bunjob Jaroenchonwanit/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 2456